

**Fair Political Practices Commission**  
**MEMORANDUM**

To: Commissioners Downey, Knox and Swanson

From: Mark Krausse, Executive Director  
Chairman Getman

Date: November 18, 2002

Subject: Translation of forms and materials

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In July, the Executive Director reported that, based upon a request by a public official in Cathedral City, we had entered into a contract with a private vendor to translate the Form 700, in addition to Forms 410, 460, 501, and four information booklets.\* That work has been completed and I am now bringing the matter before the Commission in order to determine whether the forms and booklets should be published in the translated Spanish/English format.

Background Mr. Gary Howell, Chairman of a Cathedral City project area committee, wrote in June requesting a Spanish-language version of the Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interests) due to the substantial Spanish-speaking population in Cathedral City.

In researching Mr. Howell's request, we determined that the Secretary of State provides voter information materials in six languages in addition to English, as required by the federal Voting Rights Act. In addition, 46 of 55 state agencies surveyed by the State Personnel Board provide their written materials in multiple languages under the authority provided in the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Government Code sections 7290-7299.8). Moreover, while Proposition 63 of 1986 added a provision to the California Constitution making English the state's official language, the Legislature has not prohibited the use of other languages, even in state and local governmental publications. Publications in other languages are quite common, and some state agencies are now launching duplicate websites in Spanish (see attached Governor's press release re: DMV's Spanish-language website).

In September, Governor Davis returned SB 987 (Escutia) to the Legislature without signing the measure. The bill that would have expanded the authority of the State Personnel Board to ensure state agency compliance with the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual

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\* The forms and booklets discussed above are: form 700, "Statement of Economic Interest," form 410, "Statement of Organization," form 460, "Consolidated Campaign Disclosure Form," form 501, "Candidate Intention Statement," and booklets entitled, "About The FPPC," "How To Get Advice," "Your Duty To File," and "What Happens When I File A Complaint?"

Services Act by requiring agencies to provide additional translated materials, and to develop implementation plans. Citing the state's fiscal crisis as his reason for returning the bill, the Governor nevertheless directed "agencies to phase in policies, as time and resources permit, that contain the spirit and intent of this legislation." (See attached veto message).

Recommendation We believe that providing translated materials in the state's second most commonly spoken language is a modest and appropriate step in the direction the Governor has directed. The translations were performed with money from last fiscal year that would have reverted to the General Fund, and future changes to the forms can be made to the Spanish/English version at little or no cost. For these reasons, we recommend that the Commission approve publication of the English/Spanish versions of Forms 410, 460, 501 and 700, and the four most common pamphlets.